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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Balasuriya

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METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MULTI-LEVEL DISTRIBUTED SPEECH

RECOGNITION

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Date

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

In response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment mailed February 28, 2004, Applicant submits the following preliminary amendment to overcome the Non-Compliant Notice directed to the originally submitted preliminary amendment filed on February 12, 2004.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.